

2. (Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement of said nucleic acid molecule, said polypeptide having epithelial cell proliferation activity.

4. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, said molecule hybridizing under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid sequence complementary to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence of nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, or the complement of said nucleic acid molecule, said stringent condition comprising those in which a salt concentration is from about 0.01 M to about 1.0 M sodium ion at a pH from about 7.0 to about 8.3, and in which a temperature is at least about 30°C for probes comprising nucleic acids of 10 to 50 nt or at least about 60°C for probes comprising nucleic acids of more than 50 nt.

5. (Twice Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, said molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, said amino acid sequence further comprising one or more conservative amino acid substitutions, wherein said substitutions do not alter the functional ability of the encoded FGF-CX protein, and wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide at least 85% identical to the polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

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14. (Thrice Amended) A method of producing an isolated FGF-CX polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, said method comprising the step of culturing the host cell of claim 10 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule encoding said polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 is expressed.

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19. (Twice Amended) A composition comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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28. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the nucleic acid hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions, said stringent condition comprising those in which a salt concentration is from about 0.01 M to about 1.0 M sodium ion at a pH from about 7.0 to about 8.3, and in which a temperature is at least about 30°C for probes comprising nucleic acids of 10